

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 1085

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATORS COLEMAN AND BRAY.

Read 1st time February 5, 2008, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4946S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 160.545, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the A+ schools program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 160.545, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 160.545, to read as follows:

160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the department of
2 elementary and secondary education the "A+ Schools Program" to be administered
3 by the commissioner of education. The program shall consist of grant awards
4 made to public secondary schools that demonstrate a commitment to ensure that:

5 (1) All students be graduated from school;

6 (2) All students complete a selection of high school studies that is
7 challenging and for which there are identified learning expectations; and

8 (3) All students proceed from high school graduation to a college or
9 postsecondary vocational or technical school or high-wage job with work place
10 skill development opportunities.

11 2. The state board of education shall promulgate rules and regulations for
12 the approval of grants made under the program to schools that:

13 (1) Establish measurable districtwide performance standards for the goals
14 of the program outlined in subsection 1 of this section; and

15 (2) Specify the knowledge, skills and competencies, in measurable terms,
16 that students must demonstrate to successfully complete any individual course
17 offered by the school, and any course of studies which will qualify a student for
18 graduation from the school; and

19 (3) Do not offer a general track of courses that, upon completion, can lead

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

20 to a high school diploma; and

21 (4) Require rigorous coursework with standards of competency in basic
22 academic subjects for students pursuing vocational and technical education as
23 prescribed by rule and regulation of the state board of education; and

24 (5) Have a partnership plan developed in cooperation and with the advice
25 of local business persons, labor leaders, parents, and representatives of college
26 and postsecondary vocational and technical school representatives, with the plan
27 then approved by the local board of education. The plan shall specify a
28 mechanism to receive information on an annual basis from those who developed
29 the plan in addition to senior citizens, community leaders, and teachers to update
30 the plan in order to best meet the goals of the program as provided in subsection
31 1 of this section. Further, the plan shall detail the procedures used in the school
32 to identify students that may drop out of school and the intervention services to
33 be used to meet the needs of such students. The plan shall outline counseling
34 and mentoring services provided to students who will enter the work force upon
35 graduation from high school, address apprenticeship and intern programs, and
36 shall contain procedures for the recruitment of volunteers from the community
37 of the school to serve in schools receiving program grants.

38 **3. A school district may participate in the program irrespective**
39 **of its accreditation classification by the state board of education,**
40 **provided it meets all other requirements.**

41 **4.** By rule and regulation, the state board of education may determine a
42 local school district variable fund match requirement in order for a school or
43 schools in the district to receive a grant under the program. However, no school
44 in any district shall receive a grant under the program unless the district
45 designates a salaried employee to serve as the program coordinator, with the
46 district assuming a minimum of one-half the cost of the salary and other benefits
47 provided to the coordinator. Further, no school in any district shall receive a
48 grant under the program unless the district makes available facilities and
49 services for adult literacy training as specified by rule of the state board of
50 education.

51 **[4.] 5.** For any school that meets the requirements for the approval of the
52 grants authorized by this section and specified in subsection 2 of this section for
53 three successive school years, by August first following the third such school year,
54 the commissioner of education shall present a plan to the superintendent of the
55 school district in which such school is located for the waiver of rules and

56 regulations to promote flexibility in the operations of the school and to enhance
57 and encourage efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in the
58 school. The provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan
59 presented to the superintendent shall provide a summary waiver, with no
60 conditions, for the pupil testing requirements pursuant to section 160.257 in the
61 school. Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the
62 plan shall detail a means for the waiver of requirements otherwise imposed on
63 the school related to the authority of the state board of education to classify
64 school districts pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 161.092, RSMo, and such
65 other rules and regulations as determined by the commissioner of education,
66 except such waivers shall be confined to the school and not other schools in the
67 school district unless such other schools meet the requirements of this
68 subsection. However, any waiver provided to any school as outlined in this
69 subsection shall be void on June thirtieth of any school year in which the school
70 fails to meet the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized by this
71 section as specified in subsection 2 of this section.

72 [5.] 6. For any school year, grants authorized by subsections 1 to 3 of this
73 section shall be funded with the amount appropriated for this program, less those
74 funds necessary to reimburse eligible students pursuant to subsection 6 of this
75 section.

76 [6.] 7. The commissioner of education shall, by rule and regulation of the
77 state board of education and with the advice of the coordinating board for higher
78 education, establish a procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of tuition,
79 books and fees to any public community college or vocational or technical school
80 for any student:

81 (1) Who has attended a public high school in the state for at least three
82 years immediately prior to graduation that meets the requirements of subsection
83 2 of this section, except that students who are active duty military dependents
84 who, in the school year immediately preceding graduation, meet all other
85 requirements of this subsection and are attending a school that meets the
86 requirements of subsection 2 of this section shall be exempt from the three-year
87 attendance requirement of this subdivision; and

88 (2) Who has made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal
89 sources of funding that could be applied to the reimbursement described in this
90 subsection; and

91 (3) Who has earned a minimal grade average while in high school as

92 determined by rule of the state board of education, and other requirements for the
93 reimbursement authorized by this subsection as determined by rule and
94 regulation of said board.

95 [7.] 8. The commissioner of education shall develop a procedure for
96 evaluating the effectiveness of the program described in this section. Such
97 evaluation shall be conducted annually with the results of the evaluation
98 provided to the governor, speaker of the house, and president pro tempore of the
99 senate.

Unofficial

Bill

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